



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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MEMBER
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Insurance and Real Estate Committee
Senator Joseph Crisco, Co-Chair
Representative Robert Megna, Co-Chair

FROM: REPRESENTATIVE DAN CARTER, 2ND Assembly District

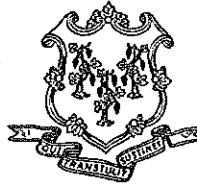
DATE: February 17, 2011

RE: **HB 5329 -- An Act Eliminating the Inclusion of a
Physician's Personally Identifiable Information From
Health Insurance Claim Forms**

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, and members of the Insurance Committee. I appreciate you providing the opportunity for a public hearing on House Bill 5329, An Act Eliminating the Inclusion of a Physician's Personally Identifiable Information from Health Insurance Claim Forms, which I am here to support.

Identity theft affects thousands of Connecticut residents each year. During the 2008-2010 legislative sessions, the General Assembly made great strides in the fight against identity theft when they passed several acts concerning identity theft or safeguarding Social Security numbers (SSNs). Legislation broadened the definition of identity theft, increased criminal penalties for certain activities related to identity theft, expanded opportunities for victims to sue for damages, and created an account to pay for enforcing certain privacy protection laws and reimbursing victims. Unfortunately, we still see headlines every day where citizens have their identities stolen and lives ruined.

Health Care Providers are some of our constituents who are at the most risk of identity theft. Not only does their prominence in the community make them likely targets, but criminal's can easily use a provider's professional identity for fraudulent billing or fraudulent prescribing. Currently, health care providers who file non-Medicaid and non-Medicare claim forms are required to include their Social Security Number or Employee Identification Number to receive reimbursement. This requirement exposes healthcare providers to an unnecessary risk of identity theft.



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A simple amendment to current statute to authorize health care providers to use a National Provider Identification (NPI) number on claim forms in lieu of a Social Security number or federal tax identification number will afford health care providers extra protection against identity theft. Insurance companies can maintain provider information for tax reporting purposes in-house, rather than having the information entered on every claim form. Medicare has already removed the requirement for Social Security or Employment Identification numbers on claim forms.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.